

soft;, that is, who is morally ruthless to others and physically timid about himself.

" I doubt if any man has had a greater volume of obliquity poured upon him than I have had during the past nine months, and I have been assailed with an injustice so gross as to be fairly humorous. But there is a good deal in Emerson's law of compensation, and to offset this I have been praised in connection with the shooting with quite as extravagant a disregard of my deserts. The bullet passed through the manuscript of my speech and my iron spectacle case, and only went three or four inches into the chest, breaking a rib and lodging against it. I never saw my assailant, as it was dark and he was mixed with the dense crowd beside the automobile, and as I was standing unsteadily I half fell back for a second. As I stood up I coughed and at once put my hands to my lips to see if there was any blood. There was none, so that as the bullet was in the chest I felt the chances were twenty to one that it was not fatal.

"I would not have objected to the man's being killed at the very instant, but I did not deem it wise or proper that he should be killed before my eyes if I was going to recover, so I immediately stopped the men who had begun to worry Mm, and had him brought to me so that I might see if I recognized him; but I did not. There was then a perfectly obvious duty, which was to go on and make my speech. In the very unlikely event of the wound being mortal I wished to die with my boots on, so to speak. It has always seemed

to me that the best way to die would be in
doing something that ought to be done, whether leading a
regiment or doing anything else. Moreover, I felt that
under such circumstances it would be very difficult for
people to disbelieve in my sincerity, and that therefore they
would be apt to accept at the face value the speech I wished
to make, and which represented my deepest and most
earnest convictions. If, on the other hand, as I deemed
overwhelmingly probable, the wound should turn out to be slight, it was
still likely that I would have little further chance to
speak during